

The Albuquerque Morning Journal

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ALBUQUERQUE.....NEW MEXICO

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1905.

The Water Works Report

YESTERDAY'S issue of the Morning Journal contained the report, in full, of Mr. A. S. Riffe, the expert engineer employed by the city some time ago to "examine, and estimate the value of the present water works system, and to estimate the cost of a new and adequate water works system for Albuquerque."

Mr. Riffe's report is very clear, concise and comprehensive—we say concise, because while it seems to be lengthy, it is in reality brief in view of the ground it had to cover. It gives evidence upon its face of being the work of a man thoroughly competent to discharge the duty for which he was engaged. The engineer states in the beginning that he takes no account of franchises, water rights or other intangible interests of any description, but confines himself exclusively to the actual value in dollars and cents of the real and tangible property of the Water Supply company as it stands today, after making what he believes to be a proper deduction for depreciation on account of age and wear. Each item is carefully gone over separately, with its value in its present condition distinctly stated, and then the whole establishment is considered and the figures given to show the cost of reproducing the same at present prices of materials and labor.

This report was received by the council, and immediately referred to the committee with instructions to "take up negotiations with the water company," and it is to be hoped that the committee will act in the premises as soon as convenient, so as to get the matter back to the council without unnecessary delay, to have it finally disposed of in some manner. The agitation over this question was commenced almost a year ago, and it has been dragging along in some shape or other ever since. The people have grown decidedly weary of it, and if the gentlemen of the council desire to do something that will be generally approved by their constituents, they will embrace the first opportunity to give it a permanent quietus.

MR. CHARLES A. STILLINGS, of Massachusetts, New York and Washington, who has just been appointed public printer, takes the public into his confidence through the newspapers to tell of the many and great reforms that he intends to introduce in the government printing office, by which he is going to do the work a great deal better and cheaper than it was ever done before. Mr. Stillings reminds us of something we have read somewhere about it being prudent for him that putteth on the harness to leave the boasting to him that putteth it off. If after as many years of service the young gentleman can show as good a record as Frank Palmer, we will be willing to print and believe all the good things he wants to say about himself. Meanwhile it will be more satisfactory to see the work than to hear him tell about it.

SADIE BERNHARDT is threatening to tour Texas in a circus tent. If she will get a small menagerie, a few acrobats and a couple of clowns and fix the price of admission at 25 cents she might make a great hit in Texas.—Houston Post.

IT IS good to hear that "the administration won't aid Castro"; but we should prefer to hear that the administration won't aid the asphalt trust.—Detroit Journal.

One of the Leading Issues

THE statement has been made, time after time through the columns of the Morning Journal, that the principal opposition to joint statehood in Arizona came from the mining corporations and the railroad companies, and for reasons well known to nearly everybody in this part of the country. Of course, this charge is usually denied by the corporation organs, because it doesn't "sound well," but there is one anti-statehood paper in our neighboring territory, which is more honest than discreet, and which not only admits the statement to be true, but gives the reason for it. We copy as follows from the Phoenix Enterprise:

"It is encouraging to see all the railroads and big mining companies in Arizona fighting against the joint statehood bill. The Enterprise warned these people several months ago that if they did not want to be subjected to New Mexico legislation, wherein their taxes would be raised 1000 per cent, they had better move in the matter, but Walter Douglas and his people were too busy trying to remove Governor Kibbey and fighting to prevent paying their just taxes to give heed to this unimportant matter, but now that the words are being shelved and the enemy are advancing, these men are shrieking about 'injustice.' Well, there is one thing certain that if New Mexico and Arizona are joined, the producing mines of Arizona will go on the tax roll for at least \$100,000,000, and the railroads will be raised in proportion. Now if these corporations can stand this, the people surely can. So it is up to them to get into the harness and WORK."

That staunch and fearless Arizona advocate of statehood, the Nogales Oasis, which has made itself such a thorn in the side of the corporations and all their organs, comments as follows upon the foregoing utterances:

"The Enterprise hit the nail on the head. That is the real issue. The Enterprise has stated it. That is why the Oasis has stood for joint statehood. It wishes to have Arizona have the help of the people of New Mexico in the necessary work of raising the assessments of the great railway and mining companies to figures where they should be—not quite 1000 per cent above present assessments, but pretty well up toward that figure. That would be justice."

"Does the Enterprise stand against jointure because it is standing in with the railway and mining companies to help them continue in the work of evading just taxation?"

"The Enterprise says that 'If Arizona and New Mexico are joined the producing mines of Arizona will go on the tax rolls for at least \$100,000,000, and the railroads will be raised in proportion.' Of course they will. And they should be raised. Does the Enterprise believe that they should not stand such raises? The Oasis believes in the raises foreshadowed by the Enterprise, and in joint statehood it sees the only hope for accomplishing these needed results."

The Phoenix paper puts the word work in capital letters, to show that it means not only physical effort, but also that other kind of "work," which the corporations have the credit of knowing how to do in the most artistic manner. And the latest reports from Washington bring the information that they have already acted upon that advice, and have gone into camp around the capitol fully prepared to "work" according to the most approved methods. And, according to a well-posted correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, enough of this work has already shown itself to cause a general suspicion that a scandal of magnificent proportions is incubating, and will soon be ready to hatch. This may come on the eastern public as something of a surprise, but by the people out in this section, who are familiar with the manner in which the mining companies have used the legislature of Arizona, in securing exemption from proper taxation, and other friendly turns, it will be regarded as a matter of course.

Solos

by the Second Fiddle

Max says Albuquerque is full of impudent grafters. Max is the exponent of politeness in all things.

Rodey told the meeting at Tucson that Arizona was trying "very baby tactics." And he made it stick.

The Isle of Pines ought to prove a popular resort with American insurance presidents—if the trees are high enough.

Senator Beveridge has been warned not to count his joint statehood chickens before it is hatched. It has certainly been under the hen long enough.

Counterfeit one thousand dollars bills are said to be in circulation. This is expected to cause a panic in Albuquerque.

General Almsworth says that if Phoenix is assured the capital of Arizona the Great Sea will climb into the band wagon poco pronto.

The disastrous Roseland explosion calls to mind the good old truism that there will always be men who throw dynamite and rock the boat.

A Shakespeare club has been formed in Santa Fe, this having no connection with the famous Shake Down club which has existed there for some time past.

Nat Porter, aged 78, has been given a sentence by a Texas jury of 1,000 years in the penitentiary for horse stealing. That is what you might call rubbing it in.

The Las Vegas News says that the single-footers are lying low and keeping their powder dry. The trouble with the anti is that their cartridges are all blank—lots of noise and nothing doing.

The dispatches say that the authorities are offering overtures to the outlaws. Evidently the potency of music over the savage heart is appreciated even in Russia. Witte ought to try to charm Father Gapon with a rag-time solo.

It only took congress a week's solid talking to say that it was in favor of the emergency canal bill. It retains the imagination even of a newspaper man to think how long it would have taken the solons to say they were opposed to it.

The statehood fight and the Doom of the Autocracy have been forgotten—lost to mind—sunk in oblivion—and the one all-absorbing national wonder is what Alice Roosevelt will wear at the wedding, and whether she will carry Marchal Niels or violets.

A Guthrie dispatch says that there has been an epidemic of the blind staggers in Oklahoma of late, which, however, can't hold a candle to the epidemic of the colly-wobbles with which some parts of Arizona have been afflicted since the statehood legislation began.

The Times-Herald says that the Almanac's plan for single statehood in 1905, evolved from the massive brain of one Frost will be carefully and prayerfully laid to rest along with Miguel's "Receptive Cardigan." The services will be conducted by the Rev. James Graham McAnry.

Max comes out of it long enough to say that the "Albuquerque Fakir Journal" stands for about as bad and rotten an element and as low principles as a newspaper possibly can. But this is a bouquet fragrant and spicy to some of the delicate little compliments Max has handed the Journal.

Miguel's "Innards."

The New Mexican of the 11th contains an article entitled "Governor Otero's Interior Report." This should be an interesting report, providing the governor tells all the inner workings of his official acts. The people are already fairly acquainted with exterior conditions.—Captain News.

Where It Comes From.

Hazarding the statement the Oasis opines that those eastern journals now so freely quoted in Arizona as opposing jointure for Arizona and New Mexico, are also opposing the beneficial legislation proposed by the president to meet glaring abuses in transportation rates. The source of inspiration in both cases is doubtless the same.

Just to Be "Out of Joint."

As was or might have been expected, the president's message to the congress didn't suit nor please the anti-administration newspapers and many democratic journals. We suggest that in case Mr. Roosevelt writes another message that he let the howlers do it and Mr. Roosevelt do the criticism. If so then, as in this case, Mr. Roosevelt would be the star of interest. You can safely bet on it that the source of criticism on the president's message is also the source of socialism. Anti-administrationists, socialists, anarchists and a big chunk of the latter-day saints of democracy are against anything and everything just for the sake of being out of joint or for the lack of patriotism and loyalty. Alamo-Gordo News.

Older Than the Pyramids.

An exchange says that the census of 100 gives Arizona a population of 122,912. If the territory has grown in population during the last 1900 year at the same rate it did in the last decade, it must now be more densely populated than China. Arizona has kicked about jointure with New Mexico, claiming we were a lot of old fossils and far behind them in civilization and intelligence, and while we didn't believe all that was said, it gave us some trouble to controvert these statements. Yet a country that was in existence during the time of the Caesars and quite ancient when Charlemagne was making history, should now stop making so much fuss and give the younger generation a chance for an expression of its views. However, age and all, Arizona, we want you, you won't lose your ancient name, even though moss-grown.—Captain News.

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